

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2004

Thomas H. Kean  
Chair  
National Commission on Terrorist Attacks  
Upon the United States  
301 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 5125  
Washington, DC 20407

Dear Commissioner Kean,

In light of recent statements made by your staff, I am writing to urge you to hold a briefing for the families of the victims of September 11 in New York, not in Washington DC alone as planned when you release your report. As you know, most of the families of 3,000 victims killed at the World Trade Center reside in New York and the surrounding area. These families are looking forward to reading your report to find answers about what happened to their loved ones on that terrible day and I hope that they will have the opportunity to have the report explained to them first hand.

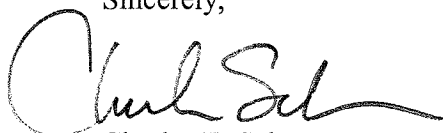
Holding the family briefings in Washington DC would be inconvenient and costly-- relatives of the victims from New York would have to travel more than eight hours round trip to hear from the Commission. The cost of travel and accommodation would likely cost the average family more than \$300. I urge you to reconsider the Commission's plan for the family briefing and to hold additional briefings in New York to accommodate the needs and interests of the relatives of the World Trade Center victims. Mr. Chairman, it does not seem like too much to ask, both for the families in New York and for the families in DC who lost their loved ones at the Pentagon. This process should be as convenient and painless for these families as possible.

Your Commission held only two hearings in New York. Many families who would have liked to see the testimony of Administration and intelligence officials were unable to make the trip to DC and must now rely on the findings of the report. The families deserve the chance to hear a firsthand explanation of exactly what the report means and to have their questions answered by its authors. Mr. Chairman, the families were instrumental in getting the Commission the independence and authority it required to perform a thorough and balanced investigation into the events of September 11. We owe it to these families for the sacrifice they have made for America and for the service they have done on this issue to bring a briefing to them where they live in New York.

I look forward to reading the Commission's final report and am encouraged by reports that it will be issued as early as this week. I expect to hear from you shortly as to where and when these briefings will be held.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator